Claims

1. A method of identifying a test compound useful for the treatment of an impaired maximum gastric accommodation capacity, wherein the method comprises:

administering a test compound to a non-human animal identified to have an impaired maximum gastric accommodation capacity;

determining the maximum gastric accommodation capacity in the animal following administration of the compound; and

comparing the maximum gastric accommodation capacity of the animal before and after administration of the test compound, wherein an increase in the accommodation capacity in the animal following administration of the compound is indicative that the compound is useful for the treatment of impaired maximum gastric accommodation capacity.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the non-human animal is a rat or a dog.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the rat is a Wistar Kyoto rat.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the compound is a nitrogen oxide synthase (NOS) inhibitor, a 5HT-3 agonist, a 5HT-4 antagonist, an alpha-2 agonist, a glucagon or a cholinergic agonist or antagonist.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is administered orally.

6. A compound identified by the method of claim 1.

7. Use of a compound identified by the method of claim 1 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of functional dyspepsia.

8. A method for the treatment of functional dyspepsia, comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of the compound identified by the method of claim 1.

9. A pharmaceutical formulation comprising the compound identified by the method of claim 1.

10. A method of diagnosing functional dyspepsia in a human, the method comprising:

inserting a balloon into the stomach of a test human suspected of having functional dyspepsia;

applying a start minimum pressure to the balloon such that the stomach of the test patient is not distended and determining the volume response;

increasing the pressure in the balloon to a maximum pressure of not more than 20 mmHg, such that the stomach is distended and determining the volume response;

maintaining the distension pressure in the stomach for a specified period of time until a maximum volume is reached and determining the volume response;

lowering the pressure in the balloon to the start minimum pressure and measuring the volume response;

comparing the volume response of the test human and a control human not having functional dyspepsia, wherein a reduction in the maximum gastric accommodation capacity of the test human compared to the maximum gastric accommodation capacity of the control human is indicative that the test human has functional dyspepsia.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the start minimum pressure is 1 mmHg.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein the maximum pressure is 12 mmHg.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein the maintained distention pressure is 12 mmHg.